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A BIBLIOGRAPHY ON THE "DELPHI TECHNIQUE"

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A BIBLIOGRAPHY ON THE

"DELPHI TECHNIQUE"

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INTRODUCTION

Delphi Method (Also, Consensus Forecasting)

This is a term referring to one type of procedure, developed by Messrs Dalkey and Helmer of the Rand Corporation, for the forecasting of time-related future events. It has been most commonly employed in the estimating of the probable time of achievement of specific technological or social goals. The technique involves the repeated ("iterative") consulting with numbers of informed persons as to their best judgement as to when a specified event is likely to occur (i.e., when it will occur, not when it should), and providing them with systematic reports as to the totality of judgments rendered by the group. The responses of all participants are assembled and returned to the participant, inviting them to

reconsider and to offer any defense they may have for an estimate that seems out of line with others made by the group. This information, and revised estimates, may then be circulated to the participants for further analysis and so on. The procedure can vary considerably, but its primary utility is that it produces a well-considered consensus of the intuitions of a plurality of informed witnesses without injecting the bias of leadership influence, face-to-face confrontation, or group dynamics. Respondents as individuals are expected to clarify their own thinking, and the final decisions--according to the theory, at least--will tend to converge by narrowing the range of estimates in response to the most convincing arguments.*

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